(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of the proposed project is to delineate, assess and evaluate the gem stone deposit and formulate mining plans, establish a gem testing laboratory, train the project personnel and charaterise and value the gem stone. The project is formulated to be completed in 36 months with Government input of Rs. 1.28 Crores and UNDP assistance of $673,500.

Closure of all units of Paradeep Phosphates Limited

1185. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) had closed all its units for the last six months;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the plant authorities in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the construction work of Phase-II Plant has been delayed due to non-release of funds in time; and

(d) if so, the amount released so far for the construction of the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILISERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) and (b) Paradeep Phosphate Ltd. (PPL) is a single unit company. The plant was shut-down from March to June, 1989 due to non-availability of imported phosphoric acid. The import of phosphoric acid has since been resumed and the plant has started production from 10th July, 1989.

(c) and (d) The implementation of Phase-II was somewhat delayed during 1987-88 due to fund constraints, as expectation of generation of internal resources did not materialise due to adverse weather conditions and additional funds could be released to the Company only after obtaining a Supplementary Grant. The total amount released so far for the project as a whole is Rs. 434.28 crores.

Production of pulses

1186. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present production of pulses in the country;

(b) whether the production is short of the country's requirement;

(c) if so, to what extent;

(d) what was the per capita availability of pulses in the country in 1988 as compared to that in the year 1987;

(e) what is the area under pulses cultivation in the country;

(f) whether yield per hectare of pulse in the country has been increased after adoption of new strategy for pulse production; and

(g) if so, at what rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) According to the information available from the States so far, the production of pulses in the country for the year 1988-89 is expected to be about 14.9 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) Since the production of pulses in 1988-89 was expected to be